



**AFFIDAVIT OF TERENCE D. NEAVIN**

I, Terence D. Neavin, state as follows:

1. I obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Minnesota in 1980, and a Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Minnesota in 1986. I began employment at 3M Company (formerly Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company) in August of 1980 as a Process Development Engineer, and have been continuously employed at 3M Company ever since, with the possible exception of a 1-month parental leave in 1991 for the birth of my daughter.

2. I am a named inventor on U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/811,200 (Attorney Docket No. 51932US014) entitled "Apparatus For Making Multilayer Optical Films", filed March 16, 2001 and published as US2001-0022982-A1 (referred to herein as the "Application"), which claims priority to a chain of applications whose earliest filing date is January 13, 1998.

3. I am aware of certain information that may be relevant to the examination of the Application, to wit:

a) Prior to January 13, 1997, it was generally known to use multilayer feedblocks to divide two or more polymer melt streams into many layers each, interleave these layers, and merge the many layers of two or more polymers into a single multilayer stream.

b) Prior to January 13, 1997, a certain 209 layer modular feedblock (referred to herein as the "Prior Feedblock") was fabricated and used in the United States to make multilayer optical film products offered for sale in the United States and elsewhere.

c) The Prior Feedblock included a gradient plate having flow channels that provided resins to a feeder tube plate having conduits, which in turn provided the resins to a

slot plate having slot dies, in order to divide the incoming resin streams into a plurality of interleaved polymer layers in a single melt stream. The flow channels in the gradient plate each had a cross-sectional area that changed from a first position to a second position along said flow channels. The melt stream was then cast against a casting wheel and oriented by stretching to form multilayer optical films. The Prior Feedblock also included a multiplicity of internal cartridge heaters fitted into bores in the feedblock assembly, and a metal heat shield covering but spaced apart from the upper portion of the feedblock assembly, for temperature control.

d) The Prior Feedblock did not have any of the following: (i) an axial rod heater; (ii) heaters attached to any external surface of the feedblock assembly or to any external housing surface; (iii) insulation, except for insulation on the outside of the metal heat shield to prevent operator injury; and (iv) a manifold plate having supplemental channels.

